

FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS' NEWSLETTER

<https://bluewateranglers.com>

SPRING 2026

CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR

For April - July 2026

April 7	General Membership Meeting
April 25	Club Spring Derby
May 1- May 10	50 th Annual (2026) Salmon Derby
May 22	Salmon Derby Awards Night
May 30	Kids Training Day
July 4	Family Fun Fishing Derby
JULY 25	Walleye Derby

Pick up a copy of the **2026 Listing of Events** at the next General Membership Meeting. Check the Bluewater Anglers website for current information on upcoming club events at <https://bluewateranglers.com>.

Election of Officers For 2026

All Executive Officers were approved by the Directors.

President Ralph Eves

1st Vice Gary Mitchell

2nd Vice John Sipkens

Treasurer Bob Daly

Secretary Lou Dallaire

Other

Duties/Responsibilities

Newsletter Editor

Gary Mitchell

Membership

Rob Mina

Hatchery Coordinator

Ron Allison

In House Events Co-ordinator

Lou Dallaire

Media Co-ordinator

Ron Allison

Website Co-ordinator

Al Metcalfe

Social Media Co-ordinator

Darryl De Keyesar

Kid's Kids Training Day

Bryan Childs and Dan Pomainville



OUR GENEROUS CLUB SUPPORTERS

Bruce Dennis – 1525

Lambton Upland Game Bird Club – 1000

Stephen Gray – 50

Brian Somes – 150

Scott Hanlon – 50

Jon Gilbank – 125

Chris Abram – 25

Karen Kirkland – 100

Don Carey – 95, donated his share of the 50/50 draw back to Bluewater Anglers at the January General Membership Meeting

THE WEAVING WATERS EXPEDITION

**The Bluewater Anglers Present:
Allen Curry's Solo Great Loop to the East Coast**

In 2024, Allen completed a 14-month, 7,200 nautical mile, solo boat journey around eastern North America, the Weaving Waters Expedition. It was a Great Loop plus some East Coast Loop back to his then home in Fredericton, NB. Allen will tell his water stories of adventure and learning, weaving these together with his 30+ years as Professor of Recreational Fisheries, Biology, Forestry, and Environmental Management at UNB Fredericton.

APRIL 7
210 Monk St, Point Edward

DRAW PRIZES BY:

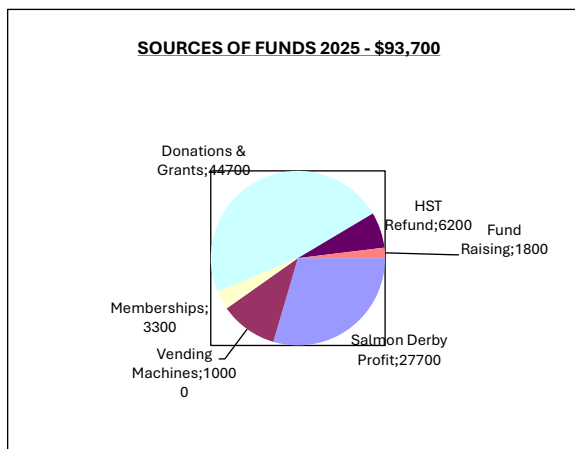


MORE INFO:
Doors open at 6:30 pm - Event starts at 7:00 pm
Licensed bar, draw prizes, and Bluewater Anglers memberships available for purchase.
Derby and hatchery updates will be provided.




TREASURER'S REPORT – 2025

Here is a brief summary of our Financial Performance in 2025. Once again, it was a very good year for Bluewater Anglers, even achieving a small surplus in our Hatchery Account going forward. We enjoyed another great year of Community Support in our fund raising efforts, generous donations and our grant from OFAH through the Community Hatcheries Program. The Salmon Derby achieved its highest profit ever, sufficient that some of the profits could be retained to help support our 50th Anniversary of the Salmon Derby in 2026. The pie chart below shows the sources of funds received in 2025:

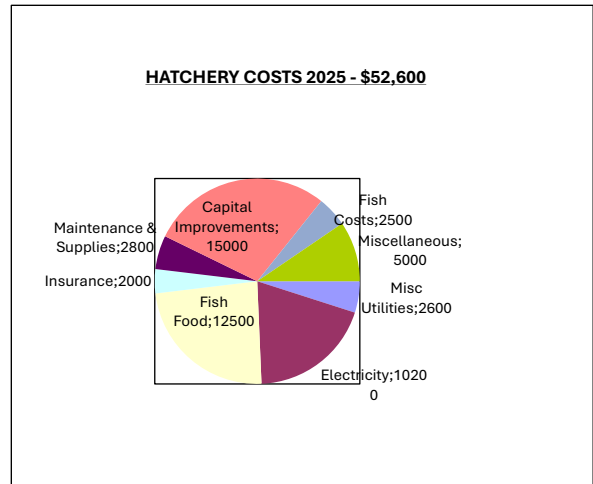


We are very grateful for the financial assistance, large and small from our community. The following table lists the major donations and grants received in 2025:

- OFAH/CHP grant – 14,100
- Imperial Oil – Stocking trailer 14,750
- Discharge Permit refund from MECP – 6,000
- NOVA Kid's Training Day – 2,500
- OFAH – Kid's Training Day – 1,250

- In-Memoriam Donations – 2,100
- Village of Point Edward – Walleye Derby – 500
- Aquarium Society – School Program – 500
- Numerous smaller donations – 3,000

Our normal Hatchery Costs were similar to past years. However, our re-investment in Capital Projects was significantly higher. We completed our planned project to replace the incubator table, which was funded through the OFAH/CHP capital grant. Early in 2025 we discovered that our fish stocking trailer was in very poor condition and we decided to look into getting a new one, based on safety concerns. Funding was secured from Imperial Oil for this project, which will continue into 2026 for completion. A summary of our hatchery expenses in 2025 are shown in the pie chart below:



Bob Daly
Treasurer, Bluewater Anglers

ICE FISHING DERBY RESULTS

Saturday February 14, 2026

Saturday morning was a perfect day for fishing on Sarnia Bay. The temperature was near 0C and the wind was calm. There was lots of safe ice in the bay. There were 152 tickets sold this year. Unfortunately, only 8 fish were weighed in.

Trout / Salmon Category Winner

1st Cody Spinks (Coho - 2.03lbs; 18")

Pike Category Winners

1st Diego Rocca (3.62lbs; 23.75")

2nd Jack Baillie (2.48lbs; 22.0")

3rd James French (2.27lbs; 20.5")

4th Zack French (1.19lbs; 17.25")

Panfish Category Winners

1st Taavi Keuchkerian (Perch 0.31lb; 8.75")

2nd Boaz Boon (Perch 0.09lb; 6.75")

3rd Jim Bunda (Perch 0.07lb; 6.25")

Kids Draw Prize Winners (L to R)

Lee De Keyser
Reid Harris
Taavi Keuchkerian



#1 Pike - Diego Rocca



#1 Panfish - Taavi Keuchkerian



Thanks to *The Outdoorsman* for selling tickets, *Tim Hortons* (Northgate) for the hot chocolate & Tim Bits, the volunteers and everybody who came out.

#1 Trout/Salmon - Cody Spinks

A 'WANTED' poster for a fish derby. The word 'WANTED' is written in large, bold, black letters at the top. Below it is a detailed illustration of a fish, likely a trout or salmon. The text on the poster reads: 'NEW FOR OUR 50TH DERBY ONLY', 'A BOUNTY IN EACH OF OUR 5 FISH CATEGORIES WILL BE ISSUED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND POSTING AT WEIGH STATIONS WHEN ACTIVE.', and 'FIRST PERSON TO WEIGH IN A FISH THAT MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE BOUNTY WEIGHT OF THE SPECIES WILL WIN THE \$500 CASH PRIZE.' At the bottom, there is a list of fish species: 'SALMON * LAKE TROUT * SHORE TROUT * BOAT TROUT * WALLEYE'. A large number '50' is visible in the bottom right corner.



The Bluewater Anglers opened the fish hatchery to the public on the first weekend of March Break. Over 1,000 men, women and children viewed our hatchery operation during the annual Hatchery Open House on Saturday, March 14th and Sunday, March 15th. The Chinook Salmon, Rainbow Trout & Brown Trout are always a popular attraction.



Thanks to **Feige Denture Clinics** for the generous donation of the Hatchery Open House draw prizes.

A big Thank You to the Monday Hatchery Crew for coordinating the Hatchery Open House, and the many volunteers who helped during the busy weekend. Your help is appreciated.



Draw Prize Winner #1: James Hazzard
(downrigger rod and reel combo)



Draw Prize Winner #2 & #4: Steve Manning
(spinning rod & reel combo & spin cast rod & reel combo)



Draw Prize Winner #3: Jenna Kensley
(spinning rod & reel combo)



SPRING CLUB DERBY

FISHING START TIME

12:01 am Saturday April 25, 2026

ENTRY FEE / TICKETS / INFORMATION

Bluewater Angler Members are free. Just show up. Non-Members need to buy a \$10 derby ticket. Tickets will be available at the April 7th General Membership meeting and at *The Outdoorsman* until 5:30pm on Friday April 24, 2026.

ELIGIBILITY

The club event is open to both boat and shore anglers. If fishing from a boat, all people fishing must either be a member or have a ticket or the boat will be disqualified. All shore anglers must be a member or have a ticket.

BOUNDARY

Boundaries are the same as those for the Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby ... in the St. Clair River south to the south end of Fawn Island ... in Lake Huron north to latitude 43'20" (from the water treatment plant at Grand Bend west to north of Lexington, Michigan).

WEIGH IN

Weigh-in is at the hatchery between 4:00 pm-4:30 pm. You must be in line by 4:30 pm or your fish will not be weighed. Limit of one entry per category per person.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Walleye, Rainbow trout, Brown trout, Lake trout, and Chinook, Atlantic (1) and Coho salmon.

PRIZES

Cash prizes will be awarded for the 3 heaviest eligible fish entered in each category.

Shore Category Boat Category

First: \$100.00 First: \$100.00

Second: \$75.00 Second: \$75.00

Third: \$50.00 Third: \$50.00

NOTE: A bonus \$100.00 prize will be awarded to the Bluewater Angler member who enters the biggest fish.

Draw prizes will be awarded to derby entrants. You must be present at the weigh-in to win a draw prize.





Helen Blondin



Pete Bothwell



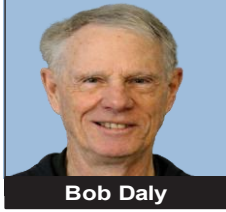
Kevin Childs



Mike Cooper



Matt Coqu



Bob Daly



Darryl DeKeyser



Jeff Edwards



Gary Fleming



Sarah Hall



Harry Harris



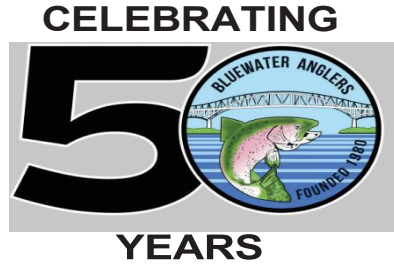
Brady Knight



Mackenzie Knight



Nigel Smyth



2026 Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby Committee

Message from the Derby Committee

On behalf of the Bluewater Anglers, welcome to the 50th Annual Salmon Derby. The 2026 Salmon Derby will offer over \$60,000 in cash and merchandise prizes for dozens of lucky anglers. The Salmon Derby offers opportunities for the whole angling community. With five fish categories to choose from, both shore and boat anglers have a multitude of fishing opportunities to win one or more of the dozens of prizes available. Kids prizes, Seniors Day and Ladies Day prizes plus bonus draw prizes help bring the entire family together to enjoy fishing lower Lake Huron and the St. Clair River. The Village of Point Edward will again be donating \$7,500 for First Place Salmon Prize as well as the Carpenters Local 1256 again donating a \$2500 cash First Place Walleye Prize. We are proud to have the Village of Point Edward, Angling Outfitters, Carpenters Union Local 1256, The Outdoorsman, WILLSCOT and Bridgeview Marine Services as 2026 Corporate Sponsors. There are over 90 sponsors that help build this great event; the derby would not be possible without their generous support. Please take a look at our sponsor page in the tabloid and consider them for your future needs.

For those who are not familiar with the Bluewater Anglers, we raise fish in a big way. Our 5,000 square foot hatchery facility, located on the shore of the St. Clair River in the Village of Point Edward, has

the capacity to raise over 150,000 chinook salmon, rainbow trout and brown trout on a yearly basis. Since opening in 1986, our hatchery volunteers have raised and released over 5 million salmon and trout into lower Lake Huron and the upper St. Clair River. Operating the hatchery is very costly. All profits from the Salmon Derby go directly into the hatchery account to cover the annual operating expenses. Take pride in knowing that when you enter the Salmon Derby you are doing something to support conservation, salmon, and trout stocking, and helping to ensure that you and your children can enjoy the sport of angling for years to come.

The Salmon Derby committee would like to thank Huron Web Printing & Graphics for their generous support of the Bluewater Anglers and making the Salmon Derby tabloid possible. Special thanks to Julli Archibald for another great job in doing all the layouts and graphics in this Salmon Derby tabloid. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

We hope to see you on the water, at the weigh-in stations, or better still, at the Salmon Derby awards ceremony Wednesday, May 20 at the Point Edward Optimist Hall

Salmon Derby Committee

BLUEWATER ANGLERS

FAMILY FUN FISHING DAY

Saturday, July 4, 2026

8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This is a FREE activity for families. You do not need an Ontario fishing license during the June 27 – July 5, 2026, Ontario Family Fishing Week. Sign-in will be at a booth set up by the Bluewater Anglers in Centennial Park near the “fishy” fountain in the parking lot just south of the end of London Road at Front Street. Everybody must sign in to receive a bucket that can be used to collect your gobies and get your ticket for a free hot dog & pop back at the weigh-in at the Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. A limited number of fishing rods and bait will be available at the sign-in booth.

You will fish as a family. If your children have brought friends, they will count as part of your family for the derby. Boundaries are from Ferry Dock Hill to the Kayak Docks. Bluewater Angler volunteers will be in the fishing area to assist you as well as measure any fish other than gobies. This will allow you to live release the fish you do not want to keep.

The weigh-in is at the Bluewater Anglers' Hatchery (...Waterfront Park, north of the Bluewater bridges in Pt. Edward) between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Bring your bucket of gobies to be weighed-in and redeem your ticket for a hot dog & pop. There are prizes for the heaviest pail of gobies caught. The weight of gobies caught divided by the number of people fishing in your group gives you your total score. There will be a variety of prizes in the biggest fish category.

NOTE: The \$100 Bluewater Anglers member big fish prize does not apply to this family event.

The event will be held if it is raining. The event will be cancelled if there is thunder and lightning in the area. There is no rain date.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS'

WALLEYE DERBY

Start: 6:00 PM July 24, 2026 End: 2:30 PM July 25, 2026

Everybody is eligible to enter the Bluewater Anglers Walleye Derby provided you have a valid fishing license and you have purchased a \$10.00 entry ticket. This is a BOAT and SHORE event. If fishing in a group, everybody in the group must have a ticket. Tickets are available at *The Outdoorsman* until 4:30 PM on Friday, July 24th. Any money raised will go to support the Bluewater Anglers. The Walleye Derby starts on Friday, July 24th at 6:00 PM. The weigh-in will be at the Hatchery from 2:00 PM– 2:30 PM on Saturday, July 25th. You *MUST* be in line by 2:30 PM to have your entries qualify. This is a single fish event ... you can only weigh in one (your largest) walleye. The Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby boundaries apply ... in the St. Clair River south to the south end of Fawn Island, east to the harbor at Grand Bend, and north latitude 43'34" in Lake Huron.

Prizes will be awarded to the 10 heaviest walleyes. PLUS ... \$100.00 for the biggest fish (by weight) entered by a Bluewater Angler member.

Winners will be announced immediately after completion of the weigh-in. There will be draw prizes with winners drawn from all Walleye Derby entrants present. You must be present to win a draw prize. Come out and participate in the event.

Special thanks again to the *VILLAGE of POINT EDWARD* for their generous donation of the \$500 first place fish

BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The **Bluewater Anglers** are an affiliated club of the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)**. Membership in the Bluewater Anglers includes membership in the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** since all members of an affiliated club must also be members of OFAH (www.ofah.org). Members can choose between an OFAH membership which includes the \$5 million personal insurance and OFAH benefits with or without the **Ontario OUT OF DOORS (OOD)** magazine. If you have a current **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** membership through another club or organization, then you only need to pay for your regular Bluewater Anglers membership.

Complete the form below to become a Bluewater Anglers member or to renew your current membership. More information about membership benefits can be found at <https://www.bluewateranglers.com/memberships> and www.ofah.org. Contact Rob Mina (519-328-6918 or rob_esso@hotmail.com) for more information.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2026

Date (YYYY/MM/DD): ___/___/___ Membership: New ___ Renewal ___

Step 1: Bluewater Anglers Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior: \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30.00
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Step 2: Do you have a current OFAH Membership from OFAH or another club. If YES complete Step 3. If NO complete Step 4.	Step 3: OFAH Membership # _____	Step 3: OFAH Expiry Date ____/____/____ (YYYY/MM/DD)
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Step 4: OFAH Membership	OFAH Membership Type	Ontario Out of Doors magazine	OFAH Membership Benefits
Junior (under 18 yr. of age)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30.00	No	Full (except voting)
Basic Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35.00	No	Basic (no family additions)
Full Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00	Yes	Full
If a Full Adult AND a Family Membership	(Select all that apply)		
Spouse / Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	Yes	Full
Number of Adult Children (age 18 - 25)	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$15.00 / child	Yes	Full
Number of Teen Children (age 13 - 17)	<input type="checkbox"/> X \$5.00 / child	Yes	Full
Number of Children (age - under 13)	<input type="checkbox"/> No fee / child	Yes	Full

Name _____
 Address _____
 Province/State _____ Country _____
 Email Address _____

Telephone _____
 City _____
 Postal/Zip Code _____

NOTE: The names & birth dates of ALL family members are needed to ensure that each person is covered by the personal insurance